OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 6430

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING AUTHORITY JURISDICTION.

SUMMARY

By law, municipal and regional housing authorities exercise certain powers, such as developing and operating affordable housing projects and administering tenant-based voucher programs (e.g., Section 8). Current law requires that housing authorities exercise these powers within their area of operation. This bill authorizes them to operate outside of their municipal or regional boundaries by adopting an expanded area of operation.

In doing so, the bill appears to allow housing authorities to exercise the same powers in the expanded area of operation as they may currently exercise in their area of operation, subject to certain limitations. Specifically, the bill prohibits housing authorities, in an expanded area of operation, from (1) establishing or maintaining a police force or (2) acquiring property by eminent domain.

The bill defines an "expanded area of operation" as an area (1) adopted by a housing authority and (2) designated by the Department of Housing (DOH) under its mobility counseling program as a high- or very high-opportunity census tract (see BACKGROUND). It requires that any part of the census tract be located within 10 miles of the municipality in which the initial housing authority is located.

Lastly, the bill makes several technical and conforming changes, including (1) redefining “area of operation” to broadly mean a municipal area of operation and, if adopted, an expanded area of operation and (2) eliminating obsolete definitions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

BACKGROUND
**Mobility Counseling Program - Opportunity Areas**

State law requires DOH, within existing resources, to operate a residence mobility counseling program to help certain individuals and families relocate to higher opportunity areas through education and support services. “Opportunity areas” are those designated as such using opportunity mapping analysis that incorporates a census tract level assessment of educational, economic, and neighborhood characteristics, including education data and crime rates. DOH must make the mapping analysis available on its website.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 11  Nay 4  (03/11/2021)